

Journal - Office of Legislative Counsel
Monday - 20 March 1972

Page 3

25X1

10. [] Received a call from Mr. Frank Slatinshek, Assistant Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, concerning the press items relating to the use of AID health funds to finance the Central Intelligence Agency activities in Laos.

25X1

I met with Mr. Slatinshek later in the day and discussed the

[]
a copy of the GAO report [] on this subject and asked that I provide him with answers to the questions he had noted therein. []

25X1

[] FE Division, has been advised. 25X1

25X1

25X1

11. [] Talked to Mr. Pat Holt, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, and gave him [] information he requested last week []

25X1

12. [] Contacted Horace Pascal, Mutual of Omaha, 25X1 to relay my conversation with Dean Sharp, Assistant Counsel, Subcommittee on Antitrust and Monopoly Legislation, Senate Judiciary Committee, that the Mutual of Omaha report to the Subcommittee on the 20th did not have to cover the GEHA program and that another program could be substituted.

25X1

13. [] Called Dick Schultz, Associate Chief Counsel, House Internal Security Committee, and based on the advice of [] Office of Security, told him that the Agency makes little or no use of the Subcommittee's indices, but Mr. Schultz would still like to have the opportunity to discuss the matter further with an Agency Security representative in the field of name checks, which he is also going to do with the Civil Service Commission and the FBI. [] was advised. (See Journal of 16 March 1972.) 25X1

25X1

25X1

14. [] Mr. Robert Hull, Department of State, called for a reaction to a memorandum he had sent me on a recommended position for State to take on the Office of Management and Budget's recommendations concerning the funding of the Foreign Service retirement system. (Copies of the papers in question have been sent to the General Counsel, Director of Personnel, and Director of Finance.)

SECRET

MORI/CDF

CRC, 6/5/2003

left to an exchange of diplomatic notes....Both of these agreements represent significant foreign policy moves. They both involve the stationing of American military forces abroad. As we have learned in the past, this can lead ultimately to war."

Stuart Symington (D Mo.), a member of both the Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees, said Armed Services Committee Chairman John C. Stennis (D Miss.) "...has often stressed as the reason for our military budget being as high as it is...our commitments all around the world. We are discussing in this resolution two major additional commitments," Symington said.

Edward M. Kennedy (D Mass.) said the Azores airbase agreement, in which the United States agreed to give \$436-million to Portugal through various aid programs, demonstrated "...the drastic tilt of the United States in favor of the white minority regimes ruling the countries of southern Africa...."

"...the Senate should do all in its power to overturn this agreement and to instruct the President to reopen negotiations with Portugal in order to produce...an agreement that does not put us on the wrong side" of efforts by Portugal's African colonies to win independence.

Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R Pa.) was among six Republicans who voted against S Res 214.

Kenneth Davis, Scott's special assistant, said the minority leader had offered no reason for voting against S Res 214. As a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, Scott had voted to report the resolution, Davis said.

INTERNAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

The House March 1, by a 303-102 roll-call vote, passed a resolution (H Res 849) appropriating \$525,000 for the Internal Security Committee (HISC) for the second session of the 92nd Congress.

(Roll call: Vote 33, p. 570)

The authorization that was approved was \$71,500 below the committee's request of \$596,500. The committee had been given \$570,000 for the first session of the 92nd Congress, of which \$28,000 was unexpended.

Opposition to the resolution was voiced on the floor by Robert F. Drinan (D Mass.), a committee member. Three committee chairmen voted against the resolution: Emanuel Celler (D N.Y.), Judiciary; Chet Holifield (D Calif.), Government Operations, and George P. Miller (D Calif.), Science and Astronautics.

The committee had long been the most controversial in the House. Members critical of HISC had charged it recommended too little legislation to justify its existence and that it tread on constitutional rights of free speech and press. Those criticisms were echoed in debate on the resolution. (Below)

References. 1971 action on HISC funds, 1971 Weekly Report p. 1019; background on Un-American Activities Committee (HISC's former name), Congress and the Nation Vol. II, p. 416.

Committee Action. The House Administration Committee reported H Res 849 (H Rept 92-868) Feb. 28.

Floor Action. Drinan charged that the committee was keeping files on more than 754,000 Americans and sharing them with federal departments and agencies in violation of House rules. Federal officials made 1,348

visits to the committee's files in 1970, Drinan said, apparently to check on federal job applicants and employees.

"Are the surveillance and the blacklisting operations of this committee justified by law?" he asked rhetorically. "Have we forgotten the principle of the presumption of innocence?"

Don Edwards (D Calif.), who voted against the resolution, said the committee would automatically receive \$250,000 as a standing committee and about \$75,000 for printing and other costs and that this should be enough.

He said the committee's legislative record was "practically nil," its investigative employees numbered no more than eight, courts had severely limited most of its work and most of the money in the resolution was to be spent on the committee's files.

"There is nothing in the authorizing resolution for the committee granting it the authority to create and maintain a library, a data bank containing rumor and gossip regarding American citizens."

William F. Ryan (D N.Y.) introduced charts showing that HISC was tied for third among House committees in number of personnel (54) and seventh in size of appropriations in 1971.

He pointed out that while the committee freely opened its files to executive department officials, its chairman, Richard H. Ichord (D Mo.), refused to honor a federal court order for certain committee documents.

Henry Helstoski (D N.J.) said the committee was inactive on the legislative front, that it considered only seven bills in 1971 compared with an over-all House committee average of 619 and that its four hearings that year were "fishing expeditions."

HISC "has been squandering its current budget on a '1984' type of thought control," he said. Its name remains "a blot on the good name of Congress and a threat to the basic rights of thousands of Americans."

Ichord answered the charges against the committee, saying they were "absolutely ridiculous," "full of rhetoric" and "not substantiated by the facts."

He said the committee held 60 days of hearings in 1971 and conducted five major investigations. "This is surely not the product of a do-nothing committee."

To the charge of a lack of committee legislation, he said most of its time was spent investigating how laws previously passed were working. "Without the accumulation of this body of information in the security field, how would the committee and how would the House assess the dangers to the national security?" he asked.

Ichord said most of the requested increase in funding was for minority staffing made mandatory by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970.

He said the purpose of the files on individuals and organizations was for resource material in connection with committee activities. Ichord said his authority for opening the committee's files to executive branch officials stemmed from executive orders by Presidents Truman and Eisenhower calling for all possible security checks on prospective government employees.

Ryan responded that no executive order could bind the Congress and that President Truman's order was superseded by President Eisenhower's, which did not confer authority on officials to check the committee's files.

William L. Dickinson (R Ala.), a member of the Administration Committee, said HISC was the only committee that received a cut in its budget request.